



THE WATER KNIGHTS.

One of the Best of Sports for the Expert Swimmer.

The sport of water jousting is just one of the best pastimes you can imagine, and it is a spectacle that any number of grown people will be glad to watch. It is as exciting as can be, and the young knights who engage in it need just as much cleverness, coolness and dash as any of King Arthur's band. The very best thing about it is that you cannot possibly get hurt if you follow the rules, and it is not nearly such hard work as football or baseball, but is twice as spectacular.

Each knight has a horse and an esquire. In this case the horse is a log or a board, and instead of carrying extra spears and swords the esquire has a paddle. The lists are, of course, water, but it must be shallow water and only up to the neck of the very shortest boy who takes part in the sport.

The log should be about seven feet long and heavy enough to bear up the weight of two boys when in the water. If you prefer you can build a small raft, but a log is very much better. The knight stands erect on one end of the log, while on the other end sits the esquire. It is his duty to paddle the log through the water and follow the directions of the knight in front.

Two knights and their esquires mounted on logs enter opposite ends of the lists, which means in this case a smooth stretch of shallow water about ten yards long. Starting, then, ten yards apart, the esquires paddle the logs swiftly toward each other.

Instead of wearing armor the boys are clad in bathing suits, and for lances each knight extends an arm, his hand open, fingers up. He may use either arm, but only one.

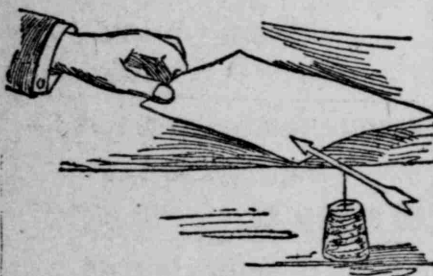
As the warriors come together each tries to give the other a push with his open palm which will send his adversary toppling off his log into the water, while he himself remains triumphantly erect, the winner of the bout. This is by no means an easy thing to do, and often both knights go over, falling into the water with a great splash. In that case they may try again or call it a draw, just as they please.

While two knights can give an exhibition bout which will entertain a number of spectators, it is much better to have a regular tournament with as many boys entered as possible. They pair off in couples, each couple having a joust, and the winners of these bouts jousting against each other till there remains but one who is undefeated, the champion of them all. There is so much sport both in entering and in watching this pastime that all who know it are loud in its praise as a fun-maker.

ELECTROSCOPE.

Interesting Little Instrument Made Out of Paper, Cork and Needle.

An electroscope for detecting electrified bodies can be made out of a piece of note paper, a cork and a needle.



Using the Electroscope.

needle. Push the needle into the cork, and cut the paper in the shape of a small arrow. Balance the arrow on the needle, as shown in the sketch, and the instrument will then be complete. If a piece of paper is then heated over a lamp or stove and rubbed with a piece of cloth or a small broom, the arrow will turn when the paper is brought near it. Or hold the palm of the hand near the arrow, and the heat will move it.

America in the Sky.

A remarkable celestial photograph was taken some time ago by an astronomer at Heidelberg. Strange as it may seem, it is the picture of a nebula in the constellation Cygnus (the Swan) that closely resembles the outline map of North America. The glowing nebula represents the form of the continent, with the dark background of the heavens surrounding it as the ocean surrounds the land. The tapering towards the south, the great gap made by the Gulf of Mexico, and the curve of the coast of Central America and the Isthmus, are all to be seen. The astronomer that took the photograph has named it the "America nebula." This is the first celestial object that has been named after one of the great divisions of the earth.

New and Improved Dynamite.

An improved dynamite for blasting has recently been put on the market which has a great advantage in that the freezing point of the nitroglycerin is lowered to 35 degrees Fahr.; moreover, when the temperature continues to sink still lower the new dynamite freezes with extreme slowness. When frozen it can be thawed with a small fraction of the time and expense of ordinary dynamites.

GRANT AND A. T. STEWART.

Nomination of the Merchant For Secretary of the Treasury.

It was not unnatural that in the absolute absence of political experience President Grant should not only have had much to learn concerning the nature and conduct of civil government, but that he should also have had much to unlearn of the mental habits and the ways of thinking he had acquired in the exercise of large—indeed, almost unlimited—military command. This was strikingly illustrated by some remarkable incidents.

As usual, the nominations made by the president for cabinet offices were promptly ratified by the senate without being referred to any committee. But after this had been done it was remembered and reported to President Grant that one of the nominees so confirmed, A. T. Stewart of New York, whom President Grant had selected for the secretaryship of the treasury, as a person engaged in commerce was disqualified by one of the oldest laws on the statute book—in fact, the act of Sept. 2, 1789, establishing the treasury department. That this law, which provided that the treasury department, having the administration of the custom houses under its control, should not have at its head a merchant or importer in active business, was entirely proper—indeed, a necessary one—had never been questioned. The next morning, March 6, I had occasion to call upon President Grant for the purpose of presenting to him a congratulatory message from certain citizens of St. Louis. I found him alone engaged in writing something on a half sheet of note paper. "Mr. President," I said, "I see you are busy, and I do not wish to interrupt you. My business can wait." "Never mind," he answered, "I am only writing a message to the senate." My business was quickly disposed of, and I withdrew.

In the course of that day's session of the senate a message from the president was brought in in which, after quoting the statute of Sept. 2, 1789, the president asked that Mr. Stewart be exempted by joint resolution of the two houses of congress from the operation of the law which stood in Mr. Stewart's way. There were some signs of surprise among senators when the message was read, and Mr. Sherman at once asked unanimous consent to introduce a bill in accordance with the president's wish. But Mr. Sumner objected to the immediate consideration thereof because of its great importance. This stopped further proceedings, and the bill was laid on the table, never to be heard of again.—Carl Schurz's Reminiscences in McClure's.

Miles and the Reporter.

"General Nelson A. Miles always did like to have fun with new reporters," said an old newspaper man. "I remember some years ago he told an unfortunate Washington correspondent a long story about a new gun metal that some genius was supposed to have just discovered. It was a wonderful alloy which was as tough as steel and as light as aluminum. By its use, the general said, it would be possible to build guns which would weigh no more than the immense projectiles which they fired."

"The correspondent was delighted and went off and wrote a beautiful article, which produced spasms of laughter throughout the entire artillery service. You see, it doesn't require a very profound knowledge of ballistics to know that if a gun and projectile both weigh exactly the same amount they would fly in opposite directions with exactly the same velocity when the piece was fired."

City of Mexico Street Cars.

The street car system of the city of Mexico is a fine one, but here is one arbitrary rule that strangers must learn as soon as possible—that is, the cars do not stop except at certain points, where you will notice the electric light poles have a band of white painted on them. These stopping places are very close together in the crowded parts of the city, so you must look out for them. You are expected, too, to enter at the back and go out at the front door. Apart from this, the conductors will be found courteous, ever ready to tell you things and anxious to assist you.—Houston Post.

No One Questions It.

An automobile party was touring through a mountainous district of one of the states and had made a stop in one of the small towns to make some repairs to the machine. While they waited the attention of one of the party was called to an intelligent looking lad of about fourteen who seemed to be very much interested in the work and of whom the following question was asked:

"Say, son, what do you live on out here?"

"Nuthin," replied the somewhat surprised youth. "Dad's a preacher."—Judge.

Object, Matrimony.

"I want to put an ad. in your paper," said the weary looking man. "Make it, 'Wanted, a situation—any old job.'"

"Shall I say 'wages no object'?" suggested the clerk.

"No; make it 'object matrimony.' If I could get acquainted with a decent job I'd be willing to marry it for life."

—Catholic Standard and Times.

Gaining the End.

D'Ambist—Do you think my battle picture expresses, as I have meant it to, all the poignant horrors of war? Krittick—Oh, yes; it's the awfulest thing I ever saw!—Cleveland Leader.

Ridicule is a keen weapon, but the things that succumb to ridicule deserve to die.

DIRT ROAD BUILDING.

How to Make the Roadbed Solid and Do Away With Ruts.

In the construction of a new road through an open country the usual custom has been to excavate ditches with the road grader and throw all the material into the center of the roadway, thus making what is often called a turnpike. The objection to this method is that the most important part of the roadbed, the foundation, is composed largely of soft material, which does not easily become consolidated. A better way would be to remove entirely all sod from the portions excavated and use it for filling in the low places, where it can be covered with at least three feet of earth, says Samuel H. Lea, state engineer, South Dakota. After the sod is removed the road grader can be properly used for carrying up the earth into the roadway, and the entire roadbed is formed of solid material, which in its future settlement is compacted uniformly and will be less likely to develop soft spots, as would be the case if sod is thrown into it indiscriminately. On a level or nearly level prairie the roadbed should be built up a foot or two above the original surface to provide suitable drainage from the center of the roadway to the ditches, and the crown of the road should be sufficient to allow the water from rainfalls to be quickly carried off.

A good road in order to stay good must be properly maintained and kept in good condition. A very important feature of proper maintenance is that of keeping the ruts out by continual raking or dragging. Whenever ruts are allowed to remain they will hold water from every rain, which, unless removed, will soften the roadbed and result in chuck holes, injurious alike to the team, the wagon and the driver.

The process of dragging, smoothing and planing the road with one of the numerous styles of road drags now happily coming into use in many localities is so simple and inexpensive that there is no excuse for allowing any road to become rough and rutty through neglect.

Remedy For Bad Roads.

The remedy for bad roads, it seems to me, lies wholly with the men who own property along them. Elect no man to the position of overseer who does not understand how to make good roads out of poor ones. If there is no such man in your neighborhood, hire one from outside. This is, ninety-nine times out of a hundred, the wisest thing to do, for the chances are that there is no man in the neighborhood who has had practical experience enough to make it safe to trust the work to him, says Eben E. Rexford in the Outlook Magazine for June. He may have good sense, good judgment and all that—in short, there may be the making of a good road builder in him—but what you need is a man who is a good road builder, a man who has got the trade already learned. In other words, you can't afford to wait for home talent to develop if the man who has developed his ability in that direction is procurable. Have your road tax paid in cash. Secure a skilled man, and let him assume responsibility for the work he undertakes. If you do this, you stand in a fair way to solve the problem of good roads.

Oil Roads in Illinois.

A most interesting experiment is being conducted in central Illinois, near Springfield. The state highway commission is making a test of oil on country roads. While oil roads are no novelty in many parts of the United States, they are not known on the heavy black soil of central Illinois. The top soil of the road is being mixed with an asphalt oil to a depth of six inches. What the results will be no one can predict, but this may be the solution of the good roads problem. In many parts of the Sucker State stone roads are out of the question. Without the material near at hand the great prairie states cannot expect to have stone pikes, as do some of the eastern states. Good roads must be secured by drainage, special care and possibly by the use of oil. This experiment will be watched with a great deal of interest.

Road Building Picnic.

"Don't you people ever work the roads in this section?" asked an automobilist as he pried the rear wheel of his machine out of a rut with a fence rail.

"Work 'em? Well, I should say we do," answered Uncle Charlie Beaver from the top rail of the fence. "Why, we work these roads on th' assessment plan. None of that money system for us fellers. Every farm is assessed so many days' work on th' highway, an' after th' farm work is all done an' we ain't nuthin' else to do we all turn out, thirty or forty o' us, with plows, horses, picks, shovels an' hoes to work th' roads. I tell you, it's a picnic. Work? Why, they make th' dirt fly until they get tired. Then we find some shady spot to rest, eat our lunch, drink some cider, smoke an' maby play a game or two of seven up. An' we call it a day."

Boulevard Between Pacific Coast Cities.

T. H. Bellingham, former councilman of Tacoma, Wash., has a plan for a Tacoma Seattle water view boulevard which he is taking up with the Good Roads and other associations. The road would run along a series of bluffs which afford a wonderful site for a boulevard. As for the practical plans, it is believed that property owners would be glad to donate the rights of way. The cost of construction would be met partially at least by popular subscription.

Put to Flight.

The baby in arms was screaming lustily, and the man in the gray suit could not hide his irritability.

"What on earth, madam," he spluttered, "do you mean by bringing such a howling brat into a public vehicle?" "It isn't a brat!" retorted the mother, with natural indignation. "And if I'm any judge it doesn't howl half as much as you did at its age, going by the looks of you!"

The man in gray wriggled uneasily under the general scrutiny.

"Baby, see the ugly man?" pursued the infuriated female, pointing at him. "See the monkey-ponkey, gorilla man what might take a first prize at a beauty show for the 'orriblest face? Baby, hush, or the ugly monkey man will!" But the sentence remained unfinished, for the man in the gray suit had bolted.—London Graphic.

Surf Birds.

That birds of the family termed surf birds in the Hawaiian Islands should leave that paradise of the Pacific to go and rear their young in the tundras of Alaska would seem to many an extraordinary proceeding, yet the turnstone and the black bellied plover and the Pacific golden plover make the long journey of about 4,000 miles thither annually.

Two Reasons.

"You mustn't play with Mr. Borum's hat, Bobby," said a young lady who was entertaining a caller to her small brother.

"Why mustn't I?" asked the youngster.

"Because you might break it," replied his sister, "and, besides, he will want it shortly."

Her Great Memory.

The gift of memory was being discussed when Alice wisely said:

"Mother's got a good memory. She can remember things a heap further back than any of us children can."—Lippincott's.

Prehistoric.

Little Girl—I've got a father and a mummy and a grandfather. Old Gent—And how old is your grandfather? Little Girl—I don't know, but we've had him a long time.

Advertise!

The speedy way to market a product is to give it publicity, and the newspaper is the medium through which to reach all the world.—Waco Times-Herald.

Leaves Estate to Children.

New York, Oct. 24.—The will of the late Rt. Rev. Henry C. Potter, Protestant Episcopal bishop of New York, leaves all his property to his five children. The estate is to be divided equally among them. There were no public bequests. The value of the estate was not given.

THE NEWS by mail 25c a month.

You Cannot Answer These Questions!

1—Why do you continue bathing your knees and elbows one at a time, when you can stretch out in a full bath tempered to suit you, and can do so every morning if you wish?

2—Why pump and carry water for your kitchen and laundry work when you can have it at hand for the turning of a faucet?

3—Why take chances on drinking germ-filled cistern water when you can get it from a large reservoir filtered through the best filter plant South of the Ohio River?

4—Why have a dry, dismal-looking yard when you can have it filled with green grass and blooming flowers, and can at the same time get rid of the dust in the street?

5—Why suffer other inconveniences when you can have everything for the comfort and health of your family right in the house?

6—Is it not true that the answer is not "lack of money," but lack of economy and enterprise and indifference to getting the most out of life?

C. F. ATTERSALL, Superintendent

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J. L. BROWN, President.

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AN EXPERT OPINION

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